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ABSTRACT

The Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century was convened around the nation to draw together youth and adults to discuss youth development priorities at the local, state, and national levels. Convened by the local 4-H program and involving community partners from outside 4-H, county conversations were held in 38 of Florida's 67 counties between October 2001 and February 2002. Counties sent delegates (typically three youth and one adult) to the State Conversation on Youth Development on January 12, 2002 in Gainesville. Participants at the state and county level discussions were split into focus groups and led by facilitators through a series of questions to help them discuss priorities within these five critical theme areas: power of youth; access, equity, and opportunity; extraordinary places to live and learn; exceptional people, innovative practices; and effective organizational systems. The critical difference between county and state discussions was a focus on what could happen at a state level to support youth development priorities emerging from county conversations on youth development. Therefore, the state conversation identified state priorities, and the county conversations identified action items. (The document contains lists of ideas and state priorities identified at the state meeting and action ideas identified at the county meetings.) (YLB)

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ED 476 316

State Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century

Final Report for FLORIDA

4-H The Power of YOUth

1902 - 2002

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February 19, 2002
Presented to the Citizens of Florida

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

EXTENSION

Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences

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CE 084 799

Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century

FINAL REPORT
FLORIDA

Introduction

The Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century was convened around the nation to draw together youth and adults to discuss youth development priorities at the local, state and national levels. Organized by the 4-H youth development program, diverse partners and stakeholders have been drawn into the discussions. The Conversations effort is 4-H's gift to the nation during its centennial year, as we celebrate the 100th anniversary of the 4-H program in the United States.

Discussions have focused on five critical theme areas: (1) Power of Youth, (2) Access, Equity and Opportunity, (3) Extraordinary Places to Live and Learn, (4) Exceptional People, Innovative Practices, and (5) Effective Organizational Systems.

Convened by the local 4-H program and involving community partners from outside of 4-H, county conversations were held in 38 of Florida's 67 counties between the months of October 2001 and February 2002. Counties sent delegates (typically three youth and one adult) to the State Conversation on Youth Development on January 12, 2002 in Gainesville. The Conversations effort was coordinated at a state-level through the state 4-H office in Gainesville by Ami Neiberger.

Participants at the state and county level discussions were split into focus groups and led by facilitators through a series of questions to help them discuss priorities within these themes. Youth and adults were treated with respect and on an equal footing within the focus groups. They were encouraged to vote to identify their top themes at the local level and within their small groups at the state level discussions. The critical difference between county and state discussions was a focus on what could happen at a state level to support youth development priorities emerging from county conversations on youth development. Results from county and state conversations were logged on the national web site established for this effort at: www.4hcentennial.org.

We are very proud to send a 40 member team of youth and adults to Washington, D.C. in late February to represent the Sunshine State and to attend the National Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century. With more than 1,000 attendees expected, Florida's delegates will have the opportunity to meet youth and adults from throughout the nation and will be able to dialogue about priorities in youth development at a national level. They will join members of the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate at a dinner in Washington, D.C. and attend a centennial celebration for 4-H.

Funding for the Conversations effort statewide was provided through a $25,000 grant from National 4-H Council, which was secured from leftover funds through the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development Agency.

This report is divided into the following sections:

I. State Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century
   A. Description of the State Conversation
   B. Preliminary Report of the Listening Team

C. Power of Youth – State Priorities Identified
D. Access, Equity and Opportunity – State Priorities Identified
E. Extraordinary Places To Live and Learn - State Priorities Identified
F. Exceptional People, Innovative Practices – State Priorities Identified
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State Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century

A. Description

Held in Gainesville on January 12, 2002, the State Conversation on Youth Development in the 21st Century brought together youth and adult teams from as far away as Pensacola and Miami to talk about priorities in youth development in Florida at a state-level. With more than 160 youth and adults in attendance, the teams rotated through discussion tables structured around the five theme areas.

The top five issues raised in the report are: (1) mentoring and providing role models for youth, (2) involving young people in decision-making, (3) teaching youth to value diversity and resolve conflict, (4) encouraging more positive coverage of young people in the media, and (5) providing ways for young people to make a difference and prepare for the workplace. Providing safe places for youth to gather was also an important theme that emerged from many breakout sessions.

B. Preliminary Report from the Listening Team

The Listening Team sat in on the conversations occurring in our 16 small groups during three breakout sessions at the State Conversation and they compiled the following report organized by the five theme areas:

Power of YOUth

Key themes emerging from the four groups meeting in three breakout sessions were: placing more youth on councils and boards so they have a voice, encouraging youth to be well-spoken with their ideas, working with the news media, having safe places for teens to meet and socialize, and life skills training, information on careers, support for transportation for youth and more youth-adult partnerships.

Access, Equity and Opportunity

Key themes emerging from the four groups meeting in three breakout sessions were: cultural awareness, peer mentors, teen hot lines, getting information about youth out in the open, having a coupon book with discounts for 4-H members, providing structured activities for youth, exchanges and contests, broadening perceptions of the 4-H image, focusing on the positives in the communities and opportunities for service, and more youth-adult partnerships.

Extraordinary Places to Live and Learn

Use older teens and retirees to establish afterschool programs, more communications programs, and more youth involvement in government were the key themes reported by the listening team which sat in on three small groups meeting in three breakout sessions.

Exceptional People, Innovative Practices

Work against stereotypes of young people, counteract stereotypes with community service, build relationships with minorities and the disabled, be mentored, more community service and partnerships with other organizations, 4-H is very relationship-based, promote 4-H in schools and government, and focus media on the positive things about young people were the themes identified by the listening team which sat in on three small groups meeting in three breakout sessions.

Effective Organizational Systems

Getting youth involved in policy groups, respect for youth and adults for each other, youth teen center, a job fair and mentors for youth (older youth for younger youth and adult mentors for older youth), were the key themes emerging from the two groups meeting in three breakout sessions.

Listening Team Members were: Amy Bowman (Santa Rosa County), Dr. Paula Davis (Bay County), Amanda Day (Sarasota County), Dr. Joy Jordan (UF/IFAS Dept. of Family, Youth and Community Sciences), Robert Mack (Levy County), Dede Murawsky (Clay County), Dr. Marilyn Norman (District Director's Office), Sara Riger (Collier County)

C. Power of Youth – State Priorities Identified

(1) ENGAGE YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT & DECISION-MAKING - Involve youth with local government proactively so their concerns are heard and they can learn how to be active citizens. Establish youth advisory boards, councils and other ways for young people to share their issues with officials and be heard. Trust youth with responsibility and programs and involve them in issues that matter to young people. Put youth on adult advisory boards. Educate teens and other youth about the importance of voting. Provide training for youth involved in councils and boards.

(2) SEE YOUTH FOR THE GOOD THEY DO - Improve the image of young people and decrease their isolation in our society. Work with the media to show the positives about today's young people with stories about what they are doing in the community. Help adults see that youth do many good things in the community and have a lot to contribute.

(3) PROVIDE INTERN & MENTORING PROGRAMS – Provide internship and mentoring programs at the state and local levels. Provide job training, career exploration and caring adult mentors who talk with and listen to young people. Provides intergenerational interaction. Establish a statewide mentoring program. Teach volunteers to lend, coach and facilitate.

(4) LISTEN TO YOUNG PEOPLE AND PARTNER WITH THEM – Encourage adults to ask young people their opinions and take their ideas seriously. Allow youth to talk to decision-makers and listen to them. Involve young people with adult organizations and demonstrate youth-adult partnership can work.

(5) COMMUNITY SERVICE – Provide community service (service learning) experiences to help young people explore careers and help others. Use service to show that the image of today's young people is a positive one. Improve the image of community service beyond the idea of picking up the trash.

(6) HELP YOUTH GET AROUND – Provide support funds for transportation for youth to attend programs, have volunteers to help youth get to programs, and find ways for more youth to participate in activities, especially in small towns.

Other Items Listed as Priorities by Breakout Sessions: improve relationships with businesses for job placement, general support from the state, provide resources for local activities, support education through advocacy and funding, incorporate sports into 4-H experiential learning, form a human relations club for students to work in violence prevention managing conflict between groups, offer leadership building activities, provide volunteer and financial support for youth to meet, communicate with local programs and provide resource lists, provide a free physical place for youth to meet on a regular basis, have teens teach technology to senior citizens, provide time management skills development activities to enhance youth and adult participation, develop more 4-H clubs where youth actually live, increase utilization of existing buildings, provide more exciting places for youth to hang out, link local community to state government, provide opportunities for youth to lead, link youth with businesses, and finding funding for training for young people for projects and materials so youth can work with their peers statewide.

D. Access, Equity and Opportunity - State Priorities Identified

(1) TEACH YOUTH TO VALUE DIVERSITY – help youth meet people who are not like themselves, provide training for faculty and staff and adult volunteers/mentors in cultural diversity and working with different audiences, hold workshops on diversity, partner with other organizations. Have exchange trips within the state and outside the state to help youth meet others.

(2) VIOLENCE PREVENTION AND ANGER MANAGEMENT – hold workshops and training for youth and adults. Use human relations programs to help people learn how to get along.

(3) HELP YOUTH CONNECT WITH OLDER GENERATIONS – have youth work with senior citizens, value youth adult partnership, use mentoring programs and increase adult support for youth. Use an alumni database to pull adults back to helping youth programs, create an adult volunteer and teen leader program for youth organizations. Do programs with the elderly and have a grandparents day.

(4) PROFILE YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND PROGRAMS (ESPECIALLY 4-H) IN THE MEDIA – increase 4-H awareness through the media, help young people find out about programs, develop state level website (opportunities, program, project information), recognize youth community service programs, show advertising when youth are watching, local groups make 4-H ads using real kids, more marketing/broadcasting/video production projects, 4-H custom fit to you, show the variety of projects available and that 4-H is more than cows and farms, expand upon different images, make sure programs are effective, have state developed guidelines for setting up ambassador groups and foundations and provide training. Have youth make media contacts and presentations.

Other Items Listed as Priorities by Breakout Sessions: have a youth council to make community decisions, identify facilities for youth centers, provide incentives to companies to hire youth interns, finances, human resources, state promotion of bottom-up idea, provide development resources for county 4-H programs, share facilities, solve the transportation problem, partner with local and state government agencies, state wide family 4-H fun day, bring programs to the people who have the most need, key in on the real interests of youth including music, teen awareness programs, safe places for youth, community centers, lobby for funding, work on additional funding for transportation, have 4-H welcome packets and information.

E. Extraordinary Places to Live and Learn - State Priorities Identified

(1) INCLUDE YOUTH VOICES, HAVE YOUTH ON COMMITTEES – more youth involvement in policy-making, have active youth get more youth involved, community service opportunities, implement teen representation in the Florida Legislature, state should provide benefits to committees with youth members.

(2) TRAIN FACULTY/STAFF IN ASSET MAPPING – so they can identify community strengths and pull resources together. Provide more training for county extension agents in community development.

(3) PREVENT DUPLICATION AND ENHANCE UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES – develop a framework for coordinating with other youth organizations and youth-serving agencies, public awareness of resources in the community for everyone, increase relationships with community assets, provide a directory that includes geographic and youth development resources, expand use of school beyond school hours so it becomes a community center, better use of existing facilities for youth programs via local and state efforts,

(4) BUILD COMMUNITIES THAT WORK TOGETHER WELL – provide stress/anger management/conflict resolution programs, create more activities, events, places to go and make sure locations encourage diversity, provide youth programs during times that are sensitive to cultural and religious concerns, promote programs for parent/child participants

Other Items Listed as Priorities by Breakout Sessions: have programs for teens and families, increase funding, encourage older students/professionals/retirees to mentor younger youth, find funding for good news, find and use 4-H alumni to enhance 4-H programs, influence businesses to encourage family/friendly relationships/activities, have teen mentors (juniors and seniors), create fun learning environments, parent involvement, create better transportation system, start promoting 4-H at an early age, create increased 4-H scholarships for college, abstinence, initiative to county negative youth stereotype, create after school and weekend programs, get an adult to supervise and act as a guide, promote or encourage media to cover positive youth actions, change the A+ plan criteria to keep violent students out of school.

F. Exceptional People, Innovative Practices – State Priorities Identified

(1) PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THOSE WITH SPECIAL NEEDS – advertise 4-H involvement for those with special needs, provide special needs services, provide companionship, work with and support other organizations, train youth and adults with information about special needs, make people with special needs feel welcome.

(2) BE ACTIVE VOLUNTEERS – both youth and adults should be actively engaged volunteers, locate other organizations to work with, make them feel special, needed and important.

Other Items Listed as Priorities by Breakout Sessions: start a school 4-H program, have a planning committee, work with county officials, time/volunteers, have a newsletter, provide funding, assess needs, start a school program.

G. Effective Organizational Systems – State Priorities Identified

(1) MAKE THE PUBLIC MORE AWARE OF YOUTH ISSUES – use the media to make the public more aware of youth issues, have a traveling 4-H van, have a yearly youth expo in all counties, have youth make commercials and videos for local stations, improve communication routes between youth and local organizations, club fair, sponsor social gatherings county wide, more recognition of youth contributions by adult organizations.

(2) DEVELOP A SPACE WHERE PEOPLE CAN BE THEMSELVES – provide a gathering place for young people, have teen role-model programs, work to break down barriers between ages/races/cultures, develop a youth center, teen youth centers with transportation from local government/civic organizations.

(3) RETAIN YOUTH IN YOUTH PROGRAMS - increase youth recruitment at an earlier age for better retention in programs, respect youth, try harder to understand their perspective, develop an annual 4-H youth summit workshop, annual summit and youth council.

Other Items Listed as Priorities by Breakout Sessions: let youth set their own goals, have an annual teen 4-H summit, have scholarships for all ages, education in voting, youth representation, teen after school programs (adults/college), career study/internship programs, promote all 4-H project areas through various media, interstate youth exchange program, local government involvement in providing rural transportation for youth programs.

II. County Conversations on Youth Development in the 21st Century

A. Description of the County Conversations

County Conversations were organized by county extension faculty, often with the help of a local coordinating committee. They brought together youth and adults to talk about priorities in youth development for their own communities. Working in breakout sessions, they voted for top priorities within the five theme areas around which the dialogue was organized. In some cases, groups had so many ideas and suggestions that they had to vote twice just to reach a consensus!

Counties conducting Conversations on Youth Development in the 21st Century were: Alachua, Bay, Bradford, Broward, Citrus, Clay, Collier, Dade, Desoto, Duval, Escambia, Flagler, Hendry, Hillsborough, Holmes, Indian River, Jackson, Lake, Lee, Leon, Levy, Liberty, Madison, Manatee, Martin, Nassau, Okaloosa, Orange, Palm Beach, Pasco, Pinellas, Polk, Santa Rosa, Sarasota, Taylor, Volusia, Wakulla, and Washington.

Partnering agencies and organizations at the county level varied from county to county. But some examples include: Boards of County Commissioners, County Health Departments, Public School teachers and administrators, County Extension faculty, Boy Scouts, Migrant Farm Workers Association, Coastal Cleanups, Kiwanis Club, Jaycees, homeschool families, news media, religious and church organizations.

B. Action Items Identified Through County Conversations on Youth Development

(1) Power of Youth – County Action Items

- Establish an organization where youth can interact with youth who have disabilities - Citrus County
- Embrace youth participation as decision-makers. Youth need to be on Boards and Councils, and participate in setting agendas for activities and programs. Utilize teen leaders by beginning a teen leader program – Levy County
- Team-work - Orange County
- Act like kids, be fun, give us more hands-on learning activities and field trips – Broward County
- Act on the recommendations of youth, don't just listen to their solutions to their concerns – Hillsborough County
- Conduct a community forum – Volusia County
- Provide leadership roles for youth and adults – Volusia County
- Provide community involvement in service and activities – Volusia County
- Respect youth – Volusia County
- Youth representation on community organizations – Volusia County
- Develop and promote adult volunteer programs – Wakulla County
- Establish a committee of youth from organizations to make things happen in our county – Bay County
- Create intern programs for youth – youth volunteer in fields where they would like to explore possible careers – Okaloosa County
- Develop and promote youth and adult volunteer programs – Pasco County
- Increase the hands-on experiences while educating youth and providing more activities for youth on both a club and a county level – Desoto County
- Talk to us, ask our opinions, ask us what we want to do and to be. Help us to get involved. Broward County

- Involve youth in county government issues. Involve youth on our county Public Advisory Committee – Hillsborough County
- Enable youth to have more experiences with nature (education and service-related) – Alachua County
- Create a youth leadership committee to allow youth leaders to express their opinions to local politicians at monthly meetings – Miami-Dade County
- Use news media to publicize youth involvement and positive youth stories (besides sports) – Santa Rosa County
- Organize a Youth Council – Liberty County
- Host a 4-H Expo to provide an informal reception to share ideas and areas which volunteers might get involved with – Levy County
- Secure the future by supporting education through advocacy and funding – Leon County
- have more meetings with kids and adults to discuss more ideas openly – Broward County
- Thankfulness – make youth more aware of what they have and what they take for granted – Lake County
- Include youth in planning county-wide activities – Collier County
- Link local businesses to youth organizations, enable youth to gain experiences in their field of study or vocation – Miami-Dade County
- Match up senior citizens with 4-H members for project support and intergenerational work – Nassau County
- Prepare youth for involved adult citizenship with educational activities to study and solve problems in the community and education on their privilege/responsibility to vote – Indian River County
- Involve youth in community issues that affect youth, such as developing a Teen Advisory Board which could interact with and provide a youth perspective to public officials, politicians and community leaders – Santa Rosa County
- Provide more opportunities for youth to become involved in the community and serve their community through service projects – Manatee County

(2) Access, Equity and Opportunity – County Action Items

- Draw together a discussion group to talk about the low graduation rate in our county and make recommendations – Polk County
- Collaborate more effectively with existing agencies and organizations to make better use of facilities, resources and expertise, providing a unified effort to expand opportunities for youth and increase program participation – Flagler County
- Provide safe places in the community for youth to meet for clubs and activities, for youth to "hang out" socialize and enjoy being with their friends – Santa Rosa County
- Work to increase the awareness and expand the Desoto County 4-H program while recruiting new members and volunteers and increasing parent involvement in youth projects – Desoto County
- Provide educational tools and information over the internet – Collier County
- Form a local committee of youth and adults that will receive information from every business/youth/government organization to distribute to the community through the media, websites, etc. – Miami-Dade County
- Write a marketing and advertising plan for a variety of media outlets – Duval County
- Teach anger resolution in schools – Citrus County
- Youth-serving organizations to provide activities where youth of different groups/cultures have the opportunity to get to know each other in order to tear down racial and ethnic barriers – Indian River County
- Develop some solutions to transportation problems for youth attending youth programs – Wakulla County

- Make better use of news releases – Pasco County
- Improve access to quality educational programs such as environmental education, agricultural education and Florida ecosystems – Manatee County
- Find a way to offer increased transportation to and from 4-H events. Find volunteers to drive vans, etc. Also varying location of events to increase access – Levy County
- Create more shadowing/internship opportunities – Leon County
- Establish an "adopt-a-student" program – Orange County
- Stress cultural diversity programs – Volusia County
- Establish outside funding for youth programs – Volusia County
- Train leaders and teachers how to work with youth with disabilities – Volusia County
- Provide rewards for proving youth programs – Volusia County
- Learn to use the media to let others know what is being done and accomplished by youth – Bay County
- Provide activities for lower socioeconomic neighborhoods and encourage full participation by all young people in youth programs – Alachua County
- Develop a youth ambassador program and empower the youth to expand the 4-H program – Duval County
- Educate the community on how to lobby your local legislature to ensure adequate funding for schools and social services – Citrus County
- Give kids more opportunities to get together with different groups to have fun and learn from each other and to help each other – Broward County
- Offer more resources and opportunities for youth of all ethnic and economic backgrounds – Alachua County
- Conduct training to help teens and volunteers work more effectively with disabled students – Nassau County
- Discover the interests of today's youth and plan clubs to channel those interests while teaching life skills – Okaloosa County
- Encourage economic development to ensure jobs and more places where youth like to hang out like franchises – Liberty County
- Motivate people and show exposure to new things – Broward County
- Establish groups – new clubs in new areas – Lake County
- Reach out with clubs to those who do not speak English – Lake County

(3) Extraordinary Places to Live and Learn – County Action Items

- Get kids interested in nature, make room for plants and animals, give kids more safe places to play –Broward County
- Conduct babysitting certification classes to prepare more young people for service to young children – Nassau County
- Get more student involvement with workshops and field trips in schools – Leon County
- Reduce stress and violence in homes by learning coping behaviors – Alachua County
- Use community questionnaires, town meetings, and other means of gathering information to determine the needs and interests of both youth and parents, use this information to develop interesting and pertinent youth programs generating mutual support through active participation – Flagler County
- Provide abstinence-based sex education for middle school aged youth – Santa Rosa County
- Create a fun, healthy, loving environment at home and at school – Bay County
- More youth involvement on committees that make decisions on educational issues – Liberty County
- Develop stronger communities by putting ideas into action – Wakulla County
- Find more places for youth to meet – Pasco County

- Increase the amount of community involvement while teaching youth the need to care for their surrounding environment and teaching responsibility – Desoto County
- Seniors helping youth and youth helping seniors programs – Orange County
- After-school programs, community service activities and day camps for youth – Volusia County
- Promote greater use of local and county facilities – Okaloosa County
- Increase travel opportunities while keeping costs at a minimum through camping and exchange programs – Levy County
- Create an atmosphere where parents participate with their children in family-oriented learning activities – Collier County
- Help youth deal with stress through providing things such as teen hot lines, peer and professional counseling. mentoring and educational programs on stress management – Santa Rosa County
- Provide more safe places for youth to meet, play and do homework – Manatee County
- Combine younger and older generations (youth and elders) together in activities (both service and learning activities – Alachua County

(4) Exceptional People, Innovative Practices – County Action Items

- Increase health awareness and improve individual health through educational programs – Manatee County
- Building relationships – promote parent involvement by providing family activities, establish common goals between youth and adults, and encourage and support those who are helping others – Lake County
- Develop 4-H alumni database for volunteer recruitment and program support – Duval County
- Recruit more part-time and short term volunteers to teach 4-H project work – Nassau County
- Youth development organizations to establish partnerships to help mold our youth to establish a stronger bond with citizens and community departments, i.e. schools, government, police, parents and recreation – Indian River County
- Create an opportunity for youth to learn and exercise citizenship and leadership skills through a Youth Board of County Commissioners giving youth self-determination about programs through a diverse representation in the county, in an open forum where decision-making is valued and given worthy consideration for implementation within the elected county government structure – Flagler County
- Recruit active community volunteers who are "beacons" in the community – Okaloosa County
- Provide opportunities for youth to learn, develop and utilize problem-solving skills in a safe and nurturing environment (youth/youth, youth/adults, youth/authority) – Manatee County
- Create youth reading programs – Wakulla County
- Encourage the requirement of volunteerism for youth K-12 grade for educational development and establish a culture of youth being empowered through service learning – Bay County
- Career training and scholarships – Liberty County
- Mentoring for the youth – Pasco County
- Incorporate teaching youth to respect others and proper manners while attending different functions in life – Desoto County
- Mentoring with exceptional people – Orange County
- Have a community, websites, rewards to show appreciation to parents and adult volunteers who help youth, make sure that parents see what they are contributing to, personal contact with the community leaders – Volusia County
- Provide better, structured training and incentives for those interested in working with youth – Miami-Dade County
- Youth development organizations to partner with each other, schools, police, government and parents to provide learning opportunities to teach youth how they are a valuable part of their community their responsibility to it – Indian River County

- Reduce pollution by exploring alternative energy options – Leon County
- Recruit dedicated people who are able to follow through on their commitments – impress on adults the importance of youth being able to count on them – Collier County
- Conduct annual alumni leadership retreat and reunion to rekindle 4-H spirit – Duval County

(5) Effective Organizational Systems – County Action Items

- Youth development organization leaders within communities to meet together and share strong emphasis, resources and learning experiences/activities to work together to avoid duplication of effort and provide most valuable learning experiences for youth in each organization. Youth have the opportunity to learn about the different organizations within their communities – Indian River County
- Develop a youth center and encourage organizations such as Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, Big Brothers and Big Sisters – Liberty County
- Visit each school principal to establish afterschool 4-H clubs hosted at the school – Nassau County
- Create a 4-H County Council: plan group activities, meet other 4-H members, participate in community service projects, plan for the future of the county 4-H program, and cooperate with other youth development organizations in the community – Okaloosa County
- Promote youth development organizations – youth promote to youth, use modern media to get the word out, get more volunteers involved – Lake County
- Feature 4-H work in two community newspapers – Collier County
- Create a way for groups to work together to meet goals, such as several youth organizations working on a community pride service project together – Citrus County
- Develop programming where youth set their own goals and receive awards based on achievements that reflect positively on their contributions to the community and as individual citizens – Flagler County
- Create teen center offering transportation and activities – Leon County
- Invite and demonstrate – kids invite kids, adults invite adults, show others what we do – Lake County
- Adapt 4-H curriculum to meet the interests and needs of today's diversified audiences – Duval County
- Encourage mentoring and partnerships between youth and adult professionals in the community – Citrus County
- Develop an annual 4-H teen summit workshop where teens from each county would come together to learn more about 4-H – Wakulla County
- Establish an internship program for students in middle and high schools to build relationships with adults and learn work skills – Bay County
- Get the word out to youth and adults about events and programs in the area – Pasco County
- Offer social gatherings and opportunities to make exciting use of leisure time (ex. Carnivals, dances, parties, contests, cook offs, swimming parties, summer jobs with 4-H, lock-ins, etc.) – Levy County
- Teach leadership skills, teamwork and organizational skills so the members will be prepared for life on their own – Desoto County
- Follow the lead of successful people and businesses – Orange County
- Keep current with what the youth issues are, listen to what youth are saying and respect what they are saying, make videos/commercials made by youth for youth, guest speakers to let people know about 4-H, more team-geared activities, mini-camp with workshops – Volusia County
- Make the public aware of the youth development movement through media, websites, etc. – Miami-Dade County

III. National Conversation on Youth Development – Florida Participation

Florida will send a delegation of 31 youth and 9 adults to Washington, D.C. to participate in the National Conversation on Youth Development, February 27-March 2, 2002. Joining more than 1,000 participants from around the nation, they will be part of a dialogue on national youth issues and will meet representatives of the U.S. Congress and U.S. Senate. Delegates were chosen from applicants around the state and have participated in county and state conversations on youth development. A report from the National Conversation will be presented to U.S. President Bush in April during National 4-H Conference.

IV. About the Florida 4-H Youth Development Program

The Florida 4-H Youth Development Program is headquartered at the University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences. More than 287,000 youth ages 5-18 are active in the program annually in the Sunshine State, which has 4-H programs in all 67 counties and on five Seminole Tribes reservations in south Florida. In addition to traditional agricultural and animal science projects, 4-H also offers youth educational and hands-on experiential learning on many other topics, including: rocketry, public speaking, computers, nutrition, small engines, and much more. 4-H is administered by the Cooperative Extension Service. The Extension Service is part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is charged with taking the research of the land-grant universities to the citizens of its state. For more information, visit www.florida4h.org.

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